



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>Complete if Known</b>			
		Application Number	09/720,475-Conf. #2443		
		Filing Date	March 8, 2001		
		First Named Inventor	Kazuyuki Nakano		
		Art Unit	2626		
		Examiner Name	M. A. V. Nguyen		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	55338(70868)

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
JA	AA	US-5,452,374	09-19-1995	Cullen et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	†
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number-Kind Code <sup>4</sup> (if known)				
JA	BA	EP-0	785 529 A1	07-23-1997			
JA	BB	EP-0	650 287 A2	04-26-1995			
JA	BC	EP-0	784 396 A2	07-16-1997			
JA	BD	EP-0	432 723 A2	06-19-1991			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	†
JA	CA	Jiang H-F et al.: "A fast approach to the detection and correction of skew documents," Pattern Recognition Letters, Vol. 18, No. 7, July 1997, pp. 675-686.	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	2/24/03
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474456

**Information Disclosure  
Statement****PTO - 1449**Atty. Docket No  
55338 (70868)Serial No.  
09/720,475

Applicant(s): Nako, et al.

Filing Date  
December 22, 2000Art Unit  
Not Yet Assigned**UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	File Date
<i>JAE</i>	A1	5,953,463	9/14/1999	Tanaka et al.		
<i>JAE</i>	A2	5,832,141	11/3/1998	Ishida et al.		

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Country or Office	Class	
<i>JAE</i>	B1	JP-A 9-200504	7/31/1997	Japan		
<i>JAE</i>	B2	JP-A 6-334856	12/02/1994	Japan		
<i>JAE</i>	B3	JP-A 5-022572	01/29/1993	Japan		
<i>JAE</i>	B4	JP-A 7-087295	03/31/1995	Japan		
<i>JAE</i>	B5	JP-A 7-121692	05/12/1995	Japan		

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**OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCL. TITLE, AUTHOR, DATE, PAGES, ETC)**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	

Examiner:

*JAE* *Cart*

Date:

*2/22/05*

**Information Disclosure  
Statement****PTO - 1449**Atty. Docket No  
55338 (70868)Serial No.  
09/720,475

Applicant(s): Nako, et al.

Filing Date  
December 22, 2000Art Unit  
Not Yet Assigned**RECEIVED****UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS****NOV 07 2003****Technology Center 2600**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	File Date
<i>JAL</i>	A1	6,504,628	01/7/2003	Kanno et al.		

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Country or Office	Class	
<i>JAL</i>	B1	CN 1201169	12/09/1998	China		

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCL. TITLE, AUTHOR, DATE, PAGES, ETC)**


Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	

Examiner:

*Jan Cant*

Date:

*2/22/03*

<b>Information Disclosure Statement</b>  <b>PTO - 1449</b>		Atty. Docket No 55338 (70868)	Serial No. 09/720,475
	Applicant(s): Nako, et al.		
	Filing Date December 22, 2000	Art Unit Not Yet Assigned	

**UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	File Date
<i>Jae</i>	A1	5,666,208	09/9/1997	Farrell et al.		
<i>Jae</i>	A2	5,841,148	11/24/1998	Some et al.		
<i>Jae</i>	A3	6,005,977	12/21/1999	Tanimizu et al.		

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

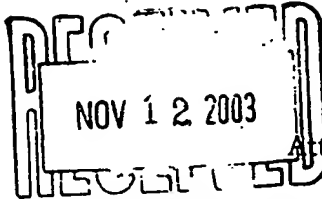
Technology Center 2600

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Country or Office	Class	
<i>Jae</i>	B1	JP-A 62-180668	08/7/1987	Japan		
<i>Jae</i>	B2	JP-A 9-233313	09/5/1997	Japan		
<i>Jae</i>	B3	JP-A 8-82880	03/26/1996	Japan		
<i>Jae</i>	B4	JP-A 9-330393	12/22/1997	Japan		
<i>Jae</i>	B5	JP-A 9-35063	02/7/1997	Japan		
<i>Jae</i>	B6	JP-A 7-15657	01/17/1995	Japan		

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCL. TITLE, AUTHOR, DATE, PAGES, ETC)**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	

Examiner: <i>Jae Cab</i>	Date: <i>12/22/00</i>
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#10  
ST  
11-13-03

2622

Attorney Docket No. 55338 (70868)

IN THE UNITED STATES-PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Nako, et al.

Confirmation: 2443

U.S.S.N.: 09/720,475

Art Unit: 2622

FILED: December 22, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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NOV 07 2003

Technology Center 2600

FOR: IMAGE PROCESSOR, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, AND MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM IS RECORDED

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop No Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 31, 2003.

By:

Helen Murray Tarbi

SEARCH REPORT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

- a. X Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- b.      Each of the patents, publications or other information listed on the attached PTO-1449 was previously cited by or submitted to the USPTO in connection with U.S.S.N.:                     , to which the subject application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date. As such, a copy of each is not included herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE  
(check at least one box)

- a. ☒ Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).
- b. ☒ A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:
- ☒ English translation for reference B1.
  - ☐ English abstract for reference
  - ☐ English translation of search report.
  - ☐ Copy of PCT/EPO Search Report.
- c. ☒ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:
- ☐ A copy of EPO Search Report.
  - ☐ A copy of PCT Search Report.
  - ☒ A copy of Official Communication from the Chinese Patent Office.
  - ☐ English translation of search report/ official communication

Applicants also would note that the USP 6,504,628 and the Chinese document CN 1201169 both claim foreign priority to JP 9-140215.

FEEES

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)  
(check one box)

- a. ☐ within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.
- b. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.
- c. ☒ before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):  
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).  
or  
b. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that

- a. ☒ each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or  
b. ☐ no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.  
c. ☐ Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VII. FEE PAYMENT (check one)

- ☐ Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.

\_\_\_\_ Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.

**X** No fee is required.

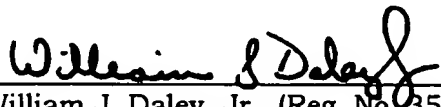
**REMARKS**

Applicants would note that the second reference cited in the Chinese Office Action, JP-A- 8-251427 is not enclosed herewith or listed in the enclosed PTO-1449. This reference was previously identified and submitted to the USPTO by Applicants in the Information Disclosure Statements dated June 11, 2001.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 31, 2003

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Daley, Jr., (Reg. No. 35,487)  
Edwards & Angell, LLP  
P.O. Box 9169  
Boston, MA 02209

Telephone: (617) 517-5556  
Customer No.: 21874



\_\_\_\_ Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.

**X** No fee is required.

**REMARKS**

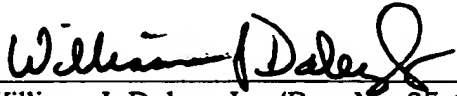
Applicants would note that the certain of the references listed in the Official Communication for JP Appln. No. 10-187058 (namely; JP-A- 8-265563, JP-A- 6-62216, JP-A- 9-233319 and JP-A- 9-312770) are not enclosed herewith or listed in the enclosed PTO-1449. These references were previously identified and submitted to the USPTO by Applicants in the Information Disclosure Statements dated June 11, 2001.

Applicants also would note that the USP 5,953,463 relates to reference B1 (claims priority to JP appln no. listed in B1) and USP 5,832,141 relates to reference B5 (claims priority to the JP appln no. listed in B5). Applicants also note that references A1 and B1 are assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 31, 2003

  
William J. Daley, Jr., (Reg. No. 35,487)  
Edwards & Angell, LLP  
P.O. Box 9169  
Boston, MA 02209

Telephone: (617) 517-5556  
Customer No.: 21874

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):  
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).  
or  
b. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that

- a. ☒ each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or  
b. ☐ no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.  
c. ☐ Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VII. FEE PAYMENT (check one)

- ☐ Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE  
(check at least one box)

- a. X Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).
- b. X A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

- English translation for reference(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- X English abstract for reference **B1-B5**.
- English translation of search report.
- Copy of PCT/EPO Search Report.

- c. X The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

- A copy of EPO Search Report.
- A copy of PCT Search Report.
- X A copy of two Official Communications from the Japanese Patent Office (Appln. Nos. 10-183469 & 10-187058).
- English translation of search report/ official communication from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copy of \_\_\_\_\_.

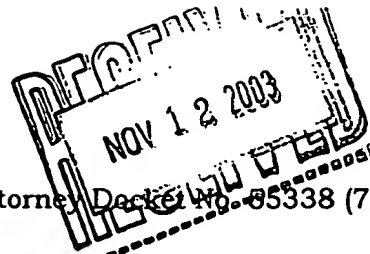
**FEES**

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)  
(check one box)

- a.    within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.
- b.    within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.
- c. X before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).



Attorney Docket No. 85338 (70868)



2622 \*  
#14  
\$5.11  
11-14-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Technology Center 2600

APPLICANT: Nako, et al.

Confirmation: 2443

U.S.S.N.: 09/720,475

Art Unit: 2622

FILED: December 22, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FOR: IMAGE PROCESSOR, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, AND MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM IS RECORDED

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop No Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 31, 2003.

By:

Helen Murray Farbi

SEARCH REPORT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

- a. X Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- b.      Each of the patents, publications or other information listed on the attached PTO-1449 was previously cited by or submitted to the USPTO in connection with U.S.S.N.:                     , to which the subject application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date. As such, a copy of each is not included herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).



#2 2622 \*

Attorney Docket No. 55338 (70868)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAY 14 2003

Technology Center 2600

APPLICANT: Nako, et al.

U.S.S.N.: 09/720,475

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

FILED: December 22, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FOR: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, AND  
MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM IS RECORDED

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 8, 2003.

By: Helen Murray Tarbi  
Helen Murray Tarbi

SEARCH REPORT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

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II. COPIES

- a. X Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Each of the patents, publications or other information listed on the attached PTO-1449 was previously cited by or submitted to the USPTO in connection with U.S.S.N.: \_\_\_\_\_, to which the subject application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date. As such, a copy of each is not included herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE  
(check at least one box)

- a. ☒ Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

- \_\_\_\_\_ English translation for reference(s) \_\_\_\_\_.  
☒ English abstract for reference **B1**.  
☒ English translation of search report.  
☒ Copy of PCT/EPO Search Report.

- c. ☒ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

- ☒ A copy of EPO Search Report.  
\_\_\_\_\_ A copy of PCT Search Report.  
\_\_\_\_\_ A copy of Official Communication from the \_\_\_\_\_  
Patent Office.  
\_\_\_\_\_ English translation of search report/ official communication  
from the \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Copy of \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicants acknowledge that only three of the six references cited in the enclosed EPO Search Report are listed on the enclosed PTO-1449. As to the other three references, Applicants would note that each of these references were earlier identified by Applicants to the USPTO. Specifically, EP 0509836 was submitted for consideration in an IDS dated June 17, 1996 and USP 5,132,945 and EP 0361970 were submitted for consideration in an IDS dated September 20, 1996. Accordingly, Applicants did not redundantly list these three references in the enclosed PTO-1449 even though they appear in the EPO Search Report.

**FEES**

IV. **THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**  
(check one box)

- a. ☐ within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.
- b. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.
- c. ☒ before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. **THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):**  
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- or
- b. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. **CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)**

The undersigned hereby certifies that

- a. ☒ each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- b. ☐ no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable

inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

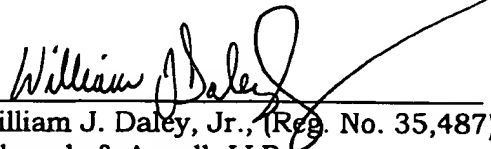
VII. FEE PAYMENT (check one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.
- X** No fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 8, 2003

  
William J. Daley, Jr., (Reg. No. 35,487)  
Edwards & Angell, LLP  
P.O. Box 9169  
Boston, MA 02209

Telephone: (617) 517-5556  
Customer No.: 21874

334747

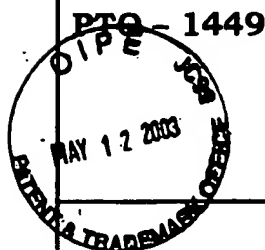


**Information Disclosure  
Statement**Atty. Docket No  
55338 (70868)Serial No.  
09/720,475**RECEIVED**

MAY 14 2003

Applicant(s): Nako, et al.

Technology Center 2600

Filing Date  
December 22, 2000Art Unit  
Not Yet Assigned**UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	File Date

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Country or Office	Class	
JAC	B1	57178474	02/11/1982	Japan		

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCL. TITLE, AUTHOR, DATE, PAGES, ETC)**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	

Examiner:

JAC Cab

Date:

2/22/05



Attorney Docket No. 55338 (70868)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Kazuyuki Nako, et al.

Examiner: Unassigned

U.S.S.N.: 09/720,475

Art Unit: Unknown

FILED: December 22, 2000

FOR: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,  
AND MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM IS  
RECORDED

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 June 11, 2001.

By: 

Fatima H. DeArruda

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
(SUBMISSION AFTER FILING OF AN APPLICATION  
BUT BEFORE FINAL REJECTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE)**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date June 11, 2001

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

**I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION**

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

## **FEES**

**IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**  
(check one box)

- a. ☐ within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.
- b. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.
- c. ☒ before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$230.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

**V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):**  
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$230.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. . § 1.17(p).
- or
- b. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

**VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)**

The undersigned hereby certifies that

- a. ☐ each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- b. ☐ no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

II. COPIES

- a. X Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- b.     Each of the patents, publications or other information listed on the attached PTO-1449 was previously cited by or submitted to the USPTO in connection with U.S.S.N.: 00/000,000, to which the subject application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date. As such, a copy of each is not included herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE  
(check at least one box)

- a. X Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).
- b. X A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

- X English abstract for reference(s) B1 through B5  
X Partial translation for reference(s) C1

- c.     The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

- Copy of EPO Search Report.  
    Copy of PCT Search Report.  
    Copy of Official Communication from the            Patent Office.  
    English translation of search report/ official communication.  
    Copy of           .

- X Each of the identified non-English references are discussed in the subject application.

- c.        Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VII. FEE PAYMENT (check one)

- Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$230.00 for the above-indicated fee.
- Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of \$230.00 for the above-indicated fee.
- X   No fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 11, 2001

By: William J. Daley, Jr.  
William J. Daley, Jr., (Reg. No. 35,487)  
**EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP**  
Dike, Bronstein, Roberts & Cushman  
*Intellectual Property Practice Group*  
PO BOX 9169  
Boston, MA 02209  
Tel: (617) 439-4444



Attorney Docket No. 55338 (70868)

2600

2621

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Kazuyuki Nako, et al.

U.S.S.N.: 09/720,475

Art Unit: Unknown

FILED: December 22, 2000

Examiner: Unassigned

FOR: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,  
AND MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM IS  
RECORDED

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 11, 2001.

By:

Fatima H. DeArruda

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
(SUBMISSION AFTER FILING OF AN APPLICATION  
BUT BEFORE FINAL REJECTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE)**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: June 11, 2001

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

**I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION**

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

**II. COPIES**

- a. X Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- b.      Each of the patents, publications or other information listed on the attached PTO-1449 was previously cited by or submitted to the USPTO in connection with U.S.S.N.: 08/000,000, to which the subject application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date. As such, a copy of each is not included herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE

(check at least one box)

- a. X Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).
- b.      A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:
- English translation for reference(s).
  - X English abstract for reference(s) B6 through B17.
  - English translation of search report/ official communication.
  - Copy of PCT/EPO Search Report.
- c.      The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:
- Copy of EPO Search Report.
  - Copy of PCT Search Report.
  - Copy of Official Communication from the            Patent Office.
  - English translation of search report/ official communication.
  - Copy of           .

**FEES**

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

(check one box)

- a.      within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.
- b.      within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.

- c.   X   before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):  
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a.        No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).  
or  
b.        See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that

- a.        each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- b.        no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- c.        Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.



VII. FEE PAYMENT (check one)

- ☐ Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.
- ☒ No fee is required.

REMARKS

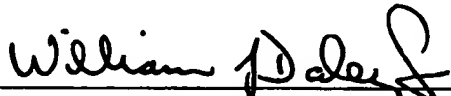
If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and to charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Each Reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 was cited in the International Search Report and/or the IPER.

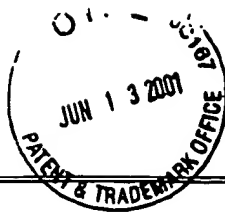
Reference B6 and b8 correspond to USP 5,973,802 and USP 5,760,930 included in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith. It is Applicants' understanding that USP 5,687,006 relates to Reference B10.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 11, 2001



William J. Daley, Jr., (Reg. No. 35,487)  
Dike, Bronstein, Roberts & Cushman  
Intellectual Property Practice Group of  
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP  
PO BOX 9169  
Boston, MA 02209  
Tel: (617) 439-4444



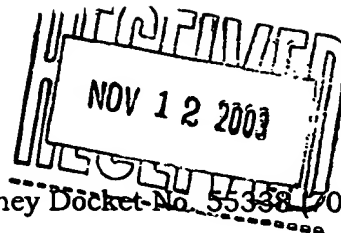
Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT		ATTY DOCKET NO. 55338 (70868)		SERIAL NO. 09/720,475			
		APPLICANT(S): Kazuyuki NAKO, et al.					
		FILING DATE: December 22, 2000		ART UNIT: Not Assigned			
UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAM. INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FIL. DATE IF APPR
<i>JAL</i>	A1	5,973,802	October 26, 1999	Hirota, et al.			
<i>JAL</i>	A2	5,760,930	June 2, 1998	Fukuzawa, et al.			
<i>JAL</i>	A3	5,687,006	November 11, 1997	Namizuka, et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRAN YES/NO
<i>JAL</i>	B1	JP 4365182	December 17, 1992	JAPAN			
<i>JAL</i>	B2	JP 6014185	January 21, 1994	JAPAN			
<i>JAL</i>	B3	JP 6-62216	March 4, 1994	JAPAN			
<i>JAL</i>	B4	JP 8-340447	December 24, 1996	JAPAN			
<i>JAL</i>	B5	JP 4-219882	August 10, 1992	JAPAN			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)							
<i>JAL</i>	C1	Hitoshi Kiya, "Resolution Conversion of Digital Image", CQ Publishing, The Interface, June 1998; Japan, pp. 72-80.					
Examiner: <i>Jen Cat</i>				Date: <i>2/22/05</i>			



Sheet 1 of 1

<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>		<b>ATTY DOCKET NO.</b> 55338(70868)		<b>SERIAL NO.</b> 09/720,475			
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>		<b>APPLICANT(S):</b> Kazuyuki NAKO, et al.					
		<b>FILING DATE:</b> December 22, 2000		<b>ART UNIT:</b> Not Assigned			
<b>UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
<b>EXAM. INITIAL</b>		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB CLASS</b>	<b>FIL. DATE IF APPR</b>
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB CLASS</b>	<b>TRAN YES/NO</b>
C							
YAL	B6	JP 8-251427	September 27, 1996	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B7	JP 62-180688	August 7, 1987	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B8	JP 5-336386	December 17, 1993	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B9	JP 5-258035	October 8, 1993	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B10	JP 8-18778	January 19, 1996	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B11	JP 63-244973	October 12, 1988	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B12	3-82269	April 8, 1991	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B13	3-85061	April 10, 1991	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B14	8-265563	October 11, 1996	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B15	9-233319	September 5, 1997	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B16	9-312770	December 2, 1997	JAPAN			Abstract
YAL	B17	61-276077	December 6, 1986	JAPAN			Abstract
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)</b>							
<b>Examiner:</b> Lee Cuth				<b>Date:</b> 2/22/01			



Attorney Docket No. 55338 (70868)

2622

*[Handwritten initials]*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Nako, et al.

Confirmation: 2443

RECEIVED

U.S.S.N.: 09/720,475

Art Unit: 2622

NOV 07 2003

FILED: December 22, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned Technology Center 2600

FOR: IMAGE PROCESSOR, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, AND MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM IS RECORDED

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop No Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 31, 2003.

By: *[Signature]*

Helen Murray Tarb

SEARCH REPORT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

- a. X Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- b.      Each of the patents, publications or other information listed on the attached PTO-1449 was previously cited by or submitted to the USPTO in connection with U.S.S.N.:                     , to which the subject application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date. As such, a copy of each is not included herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE  
(check at least one box)

- a. X Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).
- b. X A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

- ☐ English translation for reference(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ English abstract for reference **B1-B6**.
- ☐ English translation of search report.
- ☐ Copy of PCT/EPO Search Report.

- c. X The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

- ☐ A copy of EPO Search Report.
- ☐ A copy of PCT Search Report.
- ☒ A copy of two Official Communications from the Japanese Patent Office (Appln. Nos. 10-175244 & 10-175245).
- ☐ English translation of search report/ official communication from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Copy of \_\_\_\_\_.

**FEES**

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)  
(check one box)

- a. ☐ within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.
- b. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.
- c. X before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):  
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).  
or  
b. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that

- a. ☒ each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or  
b. ☐ no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.  
c. ☐ Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VII. FEE PAYMENT (check one)

- ☐ Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.

\_\_\_\_ Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.

**X** No fee is required.

**REMARKS**

Applicants would note that the one of the reference (namely JP-A- 8-251427) identified in the Official Communication from the Japanese Patent Office for Japanese Application No. 10-175244, is not enclosed herewith or listed in the enclosed PTO-1449. This reference was previously identified and submitted to the USPTO by Applicants in the Information Disclosure Statements dated June 11, 2001.

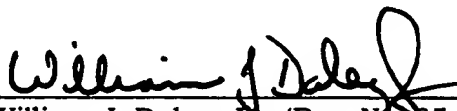
Applicants also would note that USP 5,666,208 relates to reference B2; that USP 5,841,148 relates to reference B4 and that USP 6,005,977 relates to reference B5.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention that a typographical error has since been discovered in the International Search Report. Specifically, the Japanese reference JP-A 62-18088 listed in the Search Report (and also previously submitted by Applicants) is incorrect; the document number that should have been listed is JP-A 62-160668. This was confirmed with the Examiner of the International Search Report. Applicants would also note that JP-A 62-160668 is being listed in the enclosed as it also was identified in the Official Communication from the Japanese Patent Office for Japanese Application No. 10-175244

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

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